

The Sun.

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1892.

The regular circulation of THE SUN for the week ending May 6, 1892, was:

Sunday	141,393	Week	85,380
Monday	140,460	Thursday	141,725
Tuesday	140,460	Friday	141,725
Wednesday	140,460	Saturday	141,725
Total for the week		1,059,874	

Were They Christians?

The subject inquiry reached our hands yesterday morning:

"New York, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, 100 Broadway."

"Dear Sir: Please inform us through your valuable paper if Emerson and Longfellow were indeed unrepentant in the Christian religion. Respectfully yours,

"H. M. Walker."

We answer that Mr. Emerson and Mr. Longfellow were unrepentant in the Christian religion.

The essence of belief in the Christian religion is belief in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Without the Godhead of the Christ, there is no real Christianity.

It is true there is a sort of doctrine which many people fancy to be Christian, and according to this doctrine Jesus Christ was not God, but a creature, a man, or a created being somewhat superior to man. But this is not the doctrine of the Christian religion. It is not the doctrine of Christianity. It is a station on the broad road to total unbelief, to infidelity.

This sort of doctrine we understand to have been the doctrine of Emerson and Longfellow. They were Unitarians. They were not believers in the Christian religion.

The shocking tragedy in Ireland.

There is something appalling in the atrocity of the crime which was committed last night in Dublin, an act by which the bearers of a message of peace and good will were murdered by a man who had been chosen for the post because of the Whigs he was most certain to faithfully execute Mr. Gladstone's instructions. The place had been offered to Mr. Chamberlain and refused by him, and it is said to have been subsequently offered to Mr. St. John, who also declined it, leaving, apparently, to a doubt touching his ability to secure a reelection. We think it highly probable that the office would have been tendered to Mr. Chamberlain had he given the slightest intimation of a willingness to accept it. But his acceptance of the office was out of the question. It would have led to the gravest impeachment of his motives in arriving at the informal understanding he is believed to have with Mr. Gladstone. Moreover, it was in his power to render Ireland much greater service than any other man representing an equally strong political connection. The fact that he was the son of the Duke of Devonshire could scarcely be counted as an objection, because, although the feelings of the great Whig families were slightly by the Prime Minister in the adoption of his new Irish policy, yet, after all, his votes are for the present indispensable. The Premier could not afford to break with them totally and rudely, and among the Whigs, as we have said, none have shown themselves more tractable under Mr. Gladstone's hand than the Marquis of Hartington and his brother who has just been murdered.

At the time of our present writing we know not whether the assassins may not have been insane persons—we know, in fact, nothing but the naked fact that Lord Frederick Cavendish and the Under Secretary, Mr. Burke, were stabbed to death last evening in Phoenix Park at Dublin. But supposing that no doubt is cast on the sanity of the murderers, it would be absurd to imagine that the Whig affiliations of the unfortunate Secretary or the unreasonable dissatisfaction at his appointment, as expressed by the English Radical press, could in anywise have prompted his iniquitous taking off. It is more probable that the crime was the work of men who saw in Mr. Gladstone's conciliatory policy the ruin of their clandestine schemes, and who determined to annihilate it at the cost of a country the secondaries pretend to serve, and by the butchery of men who came on a blessed errand of deliverance and pacification.

Never in the whole course of their history have the prospects of the Irish people been brighter than they looked only twenty-four hours ago. That those prospects were very deeply overcast by the detestable crime committed yesterday cannot be for a moment doubtful to those conversant with the difficulties which already beset Mr. Gladstone's path. The calamitous consequences of this ghastly tragedy we cannot as yet begin to measure. But when we think of the huge power for evil which circumstances have given the authors of this bloody deed, it seems to us that something like a curse has overshadowed Ireland.

A Suggestion to David Davis.

The best plan yet proposed for relieving the Supreme Court of the United States from the burden of business with which it has for some years been oppressed is that recently brought before Congress by Senator David Davis of Illinois.

It provides for Intermediate Courts of Appeal in the several judicial circuits, and would require the appointment of two additional Circuit Judges for each circuit, or eighteen in all.

The Democrats do not like the idea of giving all these appointments to Republicans. They deprecate any increase which will tend to make the Federal judiciary more partisan than ever. Senator Davis admitted the force of their objections by saying that if he

had the appointing power he would divide the Judges equally between the two parties.

Now, Mr. Davis is an intimate personal friend of the President, and has great and deserved influence with him. The President is particularly disposed to regard his advice in matters relating to the judiciary. Let the sturdy Senator convince him that he ought to apportion these judicial appointments between Republicans and Democrats alike. Then let him assure the Senate of his confidence that the President will appoint the Judges from both parties, and we venture to predict that the bill will pass.

The Republican party at large would have no reason to complain of President Arthur for taking such a course. In England it is by no means uncommon to select new Judges from lawyers who belong to the party out of power, and in Massachusetts Gov. Long recently appointed a Democrat to an important judicial office, we believe.

Indeed, there is nothing that would do more to extend and strengthen confidence in the President, throughout the country, than a manifestation of purpose on his part to make the Federal judiciary non-partisan.

New Hampshire's Senator.

We congratulate New Hampshire on the approaching close of Mr. Blair's examination. It has been a melancholy exhibition of moral obtuseness and stupidity on the part of a man whose high office calls for a sterner probity and a robust intellect. The hired intermediary of a fraudulent and perjured speculator is certainly not an ornament to the State which votes reserved trusts for men of such quality. Whether the course of political duty avowed by Mr. Blair is approved by his constituents, it remains for them to indicate; and the Senate, by its action in his case, will reveal to us its standard of Senatorial morality.

Under the sharp inquiry to which the Senator from New Hampshire was subjected yesterday he took refuge in vague, evasive, equivocal answers, in which it is impossible to discern any definite significance. When lawyers engaged in the trial of a cause meet with a witness of this kind they are apt to set him down as either a dolt or a knave, and as such either to ignore or to ignore him. Mr. Blair, however, as the witness had contrived to get himself elected to the Senate from a New England State, he can hardly expect us to believe that he is quite such a dolt or a knave as the evidence in his case would lead us to believe. And we are confirmed in the suspicion that he is but playing the part of an innocent man, from his shrewd refusal to produce his correspondence with SHIMPSON, whereby the truth of the assertions he has made under oath might have been submitted to an impartial test.

It is not worth while to scrutinize in detail the evasive answers which Mr. Blair tried yesterday to palm off for evidence. Every answer was a quibble, every pretended explanation an attempt to obfuscate. Two or three examples will suffice to illustrate the performance. Witness said that "when the opportunity was afforded us to have preserved peace between Peru and Chili, and made Peru a strong commercial ally of the United States, I would have embraced that opportunity. In that way we would have secured control of the Panama Canal." The more this language is examined, the more incredible it appears. What does "preserving the peace" mean? Preventing the war from breaking out, or stopping it afterward?

We had no opportunity of doing the first, and we tried in vain to do the second at first more than eighteen months ago. If Mr. Blair means anything, it is that by threats and demonstrations, which would of course imply an intention to employ in the last resort the war-making powers of the United States, our Government might have bullied Chili—though even this is doubtful—in relinquishing her just demands. Such an intention, proceeding would not, however, convert Peru into a "strong commercial ally," unless we admitted her products free of duty, annexed the country. How an interference in the quarrel between Chili and Peru would have assured us of "control of the Panama Canal" is a riddle, which even Mr. Blair, who strove patiently to elicit some intelligible testimony from the witness, felt constrained to abandon in despair.

Having admitted that Dr. ARIZOLA of Lima was a confidential friend of the sham President, CALDERON, and was to present him to the proposed Senate Congress for a billion dollars, Mr. Blair was asked whether it was expected to secure from CALDERON an official recognition of the justice of this enormous claim. The witness said he did not know that SHIMPSON expected to get the whole; the latter had "indicated a readiness to take in settlement from Peru whatever might seem fair." Now, we think it highly probable that SHIMPSON might have taken what he could get—as, for instance, a few thousand dollars—seeing that the claim had cost him and his friends next to nothing, and was absolutely worthless. But we fear the Senator might have held out for more extortionate terms, for he had accepted a few whose cash value would be directly proportioned to the sum wrested from Peru. That is observed to be the usual working of contingent fees upon the legal mind, whether the recipient happens to be in or out of the Senate.

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